

Proposed Amendments

Claims:

1. A cover assembly for a microplate, said assembly comprising:

a layer of material shaped and dimensioned to removably seal a plurality of [a microplate's] well openings of said microplate;

a pressure plate disposed on said layer of material for dispersing a compressive force in a generally uniform manner across said layer of material;

a cover having a top and first and second sides, said top shaped so as to generate said compressive force when said cover is engaged with said microplate, said first and second sides each including a [ledge] flange for supporting a bottom edge of said microplate;

a plurality of [vertical] tabs extending downward from said [ledges] flanges;

a plurality of [apertures] slots in said cover that register with said tabs, whereby a plurality of [the] covers can be stacked with the [vertical] tabs on a cover extending down into the [apertures] slots of a cover that is disposed beneath.

2. The cover assembly as in claim 1 wherein said top of said cover and said pressure plate each include [one or more longitudinally-extending] said plurality of tabs, which enable said cover to be engaged with or disengaged from said microplate by a robotic system.
3. The cover assembly as in claim 1 wherein said [cover's] first and second sides of said cover includes apertures which render at least portions of the first and second sides of said microplate visible when said cover is engaged with said microplate.

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6. The cover assembly of claim 1 wherein said pressure plate comprises a generally rectangular piece of metal with [robotic access features] said plurality of tabs accessible by a robotic handling system.

11. The cover assembly of claim 1 wherein said [cover top] top of said cover includes a central, [longitudinally extending planar ridge portion] generally flat portion extending laterally along said cover and [and lateral and planar portions extending upwardly from said ridge at their inner edges said top has an angled surface, said first and second sides extending downwardly from the outer edges of [said planar portions] said angled surface, whereby [the] said [planar portions and said ridge portions] flat portion and angled surface provide a resilient force that bears downward on said pressure plate and upward on the bottom edges of said microplate.

12. The cover assembly of claim 1 [including longitudinal tabs, extending tabs] wherein said tabs extend from said first and second sides, whereby said cover may be disengaged from or engaged with said microplate by displacing said tabs laterally outwardly or inwardly to move said [ledges] flanges away from or beneath said bottom edges of said microplate.

13 and 14 Not Allowable Subject Matter.

15-17 Allowable if 17 is combined with 15 with minor 112 issues.

Specification:

1. Add 34b to page 5, line 20
2. Page 3, remove "s" from additions in line 24.